

### **Abstract**

A wireless communication interface in a network appliance that enables secure wireless management of the network appliance over a relatively limited (short) distance with a mobile node. The operator of the mobile node is authenticated and communication between the network appliance and the mobile node is encrypted. Even if an unauthorized person was able to be positioned in relatively close proximity to a network appliance such as within the physical confines of a data center, these authentication and encryption measures would make it extremely difficult for unauthorized wireless management of the operation of the network appliance.

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